

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The claims have been amended to more closely define the invention over the art. They now define how the entire spider of the umbrella is made of plastic.

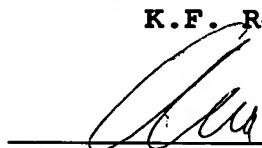
Moreover the claims recite how the abutments on the ribs are positioned to prestress the canopy. This is critical to the umbrella according to the invention in that, in combination with a substantially inelastic canopy that cannot invert completely at once, it ensures only partial or sectoral inversion and, as soon as the inverting force (e.g. the wind) abates, reversion to the original shape.

In US 1,167,431 or Raabe describes an abutment on the left column of page 2. The only statement in point is that the abutment is "between the slidabile clamp and the point H." This is hardly a teaching to achieve the effect of the position according to the invention. In fact the abutment of Raabe clearly only comes into effect near or at the very end of the opening of the umbrella; on the other hand with the instant invention such engagement takes place at the start of the opening movement and serves to prestress the canopy and ribs so as to make them into a very taut assembly that resists inversion.

In fact Raabe only proposes that the assembly be supplied to the manufacturer with the abutments loose, for later fixing. This is clearly a teaching away a system where the abutments are positioned at a precise location to achieve a precise effect. Indeed in Raabe the whole idea as stated in the left-hand column of page 2 at lines 21 and 22 is for "insuring that the umbrella will not be turned inside out in a storm." The instant invention recognizes the futility of this goal and, instead, provides an umbrella that in a very violent gust will sectorally invert, not be destroyed like the Raabe umbrella, and then will restore itself to perfect condition.

Thus the instant invention as defined in the new claims is clearly allowable over the cited art.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Request for extension (three months)